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HONORING DR. PETER MEHAS

(Mr. VALADAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Pete Mehas, an important figure in the central valley of California, who dedicated his life to improving education and helping young people in our local community.

Dr. Mehas was a local leader with passion for education. He started his career in education as a teacher and football coach at Roosevelt High School in Fresno, California.

He was elected Fresno County Superintendent of Schools in 1990, and was reelected three more times in 1994, 1998, and 2002. He also served as Secretary of Education for former Governor of California George Deukmejian. At the time of his passing, he served as a member of the board of trustees for the California State University system.

Dr. Mehas is remembered as a tremendous motivator who encouraged people to reach their full potential. The central valley lost an iconic advocate for education, children, and minorities.

Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues today to pay tribute to Dr. Mehas for his lifelong dedication to helping central valley youth through his work and education and his devotion to improving the community.

HONORING DR. PETER MEHAS

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, we're here today to honor a true public servant and a longtime friend of mine, Superintendent Pete Mehas. My Republican colleagues, Congressmen Nunes and Congressman VALADAO, and I certainly have our disagreements, but among those things we all agree on is how important and meaningful the work of Pete's life was to so many in our valley and those that he touched throughout the State of California because he was a true public servant.

He committed his life to the furtherance of education for the young people throughout California. He and I worked together on so many issues, from special education, to bringing the Keeping Score program to the kids of Fresno County, to dealing with challenged school districts like West Elementary, the implementation of charter schools, and, yes, one of the last tasks that Pete did, even though he was in retirement, was to head the selection committee for the new president of Cal State University of Fresno, Dr. Joe Castro. A good selection that was.

It's time that we set our differences apart and find the solutions to the impasses that are affecting this Congress and this country today. It's what Pete

would have done. It's what we should do.

HONORING DR. PETER MEHAS

(Mr. NUNES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I'd like to pay tribute, as Mr. COSTA said, to Dr. Pete Mehas, an enthusiastic leader of the central valley and a man whom I was privileged to call my friend.

Pete was a major force in shaping and improving our local school system, serving as a schoolteacher, administrator, school superintendent, CSU board of trustees member, and he leaves a legacy of excellence and commitment that is an outstanding role model for future educators.

Pete's passion, of course, was sports, and it's hard to imagine what athletics around Fresno would be like today without his decades-long contribution as a high school athlete, college football player, soccer, football, and tennis coach, his work on sports scholarships and the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Through the coaches he later hired at various schools and institutions, he left a lasting impact on the sports programs throughout the central valley.

Aside from his long list of accomplishments, Dr. Mehas was friendly, optimistic, and outgoing, with a constant, infectious smile. He was widely known in the community and deeply loved. Characteristically, he seemed to be at every Fresno State football game. I'll miss seeing him there.

OBAMACARE

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this afternoon, I was supposed to be in Memphis with the head of the faith-based group from Washington. Because of the sequester, she wasn't able to travel. Because of the shutdown, I'm here.

So we had 42 pastors come to my office with the navigators in Memphis, and we talked about the Affordable Care Act and how to sign up people in the community and what the Affordable Care Act did. It was a very beneficial program in telling people in the community how to sign people up for needed and important health care. I wish others would do the same thing. It would be constructive.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. We need to help our citizens get adjusted, get involved, and get the benefits.

LET THE SENATORS VOTE FOR FAIRNESS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, consider the common ground the House has of-

fered Senate Democrats, common ground Senator HARRY REID is squandering by refusing to talk.

We want to reopen government. We want to restore vital services. The Senate won't budge. They won't even negotiate. Why? Because ensuring fair treatment for Americans under ObamaCare is evidently too radical for some in the Senate.

The President provided big businesses a 1-year break to ready themselves for ObamaCare. Shouldn't he provide American families the same? The House thinks so. So does Democrat Senator JOE MANCHIN:

Give them at least a year, he said. You gave the corporate sector a year, don't you think it'd be fair?

Yes, because it is.

But Senator REID won't talk. He won't end the shutdown because he's insistent the double standard remains intact.

Senator REID, let's not waste the common ground we have. Let's talk. Let's treat Americans fairly. Let's open their government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. O'ROURKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. O'ROURKE. Madam Speaker, I received the following email from Stu Harris in El Paso yesterday. He's the vice president of the National Border Patrol Council, Local 1929. He writes:

Our Border Patrol agents in the El Paso sector are outraged by this nonsense. We cannot understand tying the fight against the Affordable Care Act with funding the government.

I can only hope that nothing happens to any of our agents in the field putting their lives on the line and doing it for free. Imagine having to be in a state of heightened awareness for 10 hours a day, all the time not knowing if or when the paycheck will come in or how we're going to pay the bills and feed our families.

Due to the shutdown, all Border Patrol agent trainees that were at the academy have been sent home. This amounts to yet another delay in adding measures to secure the border.

Madam Speaker, it is time to reopen the government and allow an up-or-down vote on funding this government.

SPENDING CUTS

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, this has been a tough week for my constituents, a tough week for all Americans.

I've been reflecting on the goals I set when I decided to run for office a little more than a year ago. I came here to tackle the growing debt that is saddling our country. I want to make sure